



PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 1956.



Officials:

Medical Officer of Health ... W. W. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector ... G. G. Evans, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Report of the Medical Officer of Health
1956.

Mr.Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Painscastle Rural District during the year 1956.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 19/56(Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistical summary for the year

Area	31,414 acres
Population (Census 1951)	1,872.
Population (Estimated midsummer 1956)	1,790.
Number of inhabited houses	587.

<u>Live births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	10	16	26	
Illegitimate	3	0	3	
Total	13	16	29	16.20

Still births 0 0 0

Deaths(from all causes) 10 7 17 9.49

Maternal deaths 0.

Infant mortality (all infants) 1. (Rate per 1000 live births
34.44)

Deaths from special causes

Vascular lesions of nervous system	2.
Coronary Disease	3.
Other heart Disease	6.
Pneumonia	0.
Malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	1.
Other diseases	5

Area

The Rural District of Painscastle has an area of 31,414 acres and is situated in the southern part of the County of Radnor and adjoins the Counties of Brecon and Hereford. Agriculture is the predominant occupation.

<u>Population</u>	Census 1931	2,149.
	Census 1951	1,872.

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
1,750	1,872	1,908	1,884	1,856	1,820	1,808	1,810	1,810	1,790

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

Inhabited houses

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 587 giving an average number of 3.04 persons per house.

<u>Births</u>	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 pop.
1947	11	11	22	16.0
1948	14	17	31	16.5
1949	18	24	42	22.01
1950	18	9	27	14.3
1951	13	17	30	16.1
1952	22	15	37	20.3
1953	13	11	24	13.2
1954	15	11	26	14.3
1955	13	14	27	14.91
1956	13	16	29	16.2
England and Wales				15.7

Deaths After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table:-

	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 pop.
1947	7	6	13	12.0
1948	9	9	18	9.6
1949	11	12	23	12.05
1950	17	6	23	12.2
1951	9	16	25	13.4
1952	8	14	22	12.08
1953	13	4	17	9.4
1954	14	7	21	11.6
1955	12	9	21	11.6
1956	10	7	17	9.49
England and Wales				11.7

Still births (The rate is calculated per 1000 live and still births)

	Males	Females	Total	Rate
1947	0	0	0	0
1948	1	0	1	0.42
1949	0	2	2	1.04
1950	0	0	0	0
1951	0	0	0	0
1952	2	0	2	1.09
1953	0	0	0	0
1954	0	0	0	0
1955	1	1	2	68.9
1956	0	0	0	0
England and Wales				23.0

Infant Mortality This is the number of deaths occurring in children under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate
1947	1	0	1	36.0
1948	1	0	1	32.2
1949	0	0	0	0
1950	1	0	1	37.03
1951	1	1	2	66.6
1952	0	0	0	0
1953	0	1	1	41.6
1954	1	1	2	76.9
1955	1	0	1	37.03
1956	1	0	1	34.44
England and Wales				23.8

Illegitimacy

The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents of the district amounted to three.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Officers The same arrangement existed during the year as previously. Mr. G. G. Evans, your Public Health Inspector, is also employed in a similar capacity by the Hay Urban and Hay Rural District Councils.

Laboratory Facilities During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Brecon and Carmarthen and all water samples were sent to these laboratories. Any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. Milk samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Nursing and other Facilities The County Council is responsible for these services. The County Council also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals The hospital needs of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided for at the County and General Hospitals at Hereford. A few cases are admitted to Brecon and Llandrindod Wells. Merthyr Tydfil Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital receive cases of infectious disease.

Post-Mortem Facilities A building at Cockroft House, Hay-on-Wye, has been adapted and fully equipped for carrying out post-mortem examinations and arrangements have been made with Hay U.D.C. and Hay R.D.C. for sharing this building.

Disinfection The methods principally used for disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to your Public Health Inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and the working of the Factories Acts which are included in this section of the report.

Water Supplies

During the year instructions were given to the Consulting Engineers to prepare further details of the Area Water Supply Scheme but at the end of 1956 very little progress had been made. It is sad to note that the first plan and report for the scheme was presented in 1947 and to date no work has yet been started.

Although 1956 was a comparatively wet year the water supplies in the district were barely sufficient to meet the demand and the needs of the district will not be fully met until the Area Water Supply Scheme is completed.

Approval was given during the year for eight private water schemes to individual farms and these were approved by the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts.

Details of the water supply position in each parish are given below:-

Boughrood Parish

The Llysven water supply which is owned by the Hay Rural District Council supplies some 26 properties in this parish. The remaining properties have private sources; the supply being generally insufficient.

7 samples of water from private sources were taken during the year; 6 of these were satisfactory and 1 was unsatisfactory.

Bryngwyn Parish

The Council own the supply which serves the hamlet of Rhosgoch; the quantity being adequate during the year. Apart from this supply the parish suffers from lack of piped water and the Area Water Scheme would satisfy this need. Two additional properties were connected to the Rhosgoch Supply during the year. One sample submitted for analysis was satisfactory.

Clyro Parish

The Council own the supply serving Clyro village consisting of some 43 dwelling houses and other properties. The other cottages and farmhouses in the parish are served from private supplies ranging from small piped supplies to open wells.

During a period in the summer the yield fell to such an extent that turning off at night was resorted to, and drip-feed chlorination was carried out for this period and consumers were asked to boil all drinking water.

The work of laying the new water main through Clyro village was continued and, apart from the length from the V.P. School to Regent Garage, this was completed, and all services connected thereto. Some improvements were also carried out to the Clyro reservoir.

Samples of water from the source of supply and at the point of consumption in the village continued to be taken during the year. Altogether 15 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and of these, 9 were satisfactory, 4 were suspicious and 2 were unsatisfactory, and this shows that the quality of the water varies with weather conditions, although there has been an improvement on the previous year.

8 samples from private supplies were taken; 3 were satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory.

Glasbury Parish

Some 98 dwellings have a piped supply from the service reservoirs owned by the Council. The other properties in the parish have private supplies ranging from small piped supplies to open wells and pumps.

The flow of water from the Glasbury reservoir fell considerably during the summer months and in order to improve the flow from the catch pits a temporary pipe was laid overground from the tanks to the reservoir and the supply was turned off at night for some three weeks.

One sample taken from the Council's supply was satisfactory. One sample taken from a private supply was satisfactory.

Llandewi-fach Parish

This parish has no Council owned supply but the parish can be easily supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake. There are only 15 farms and 3 cottages in the parish, these having small piped supplies, springs or wells.

Llanbedr-Painscastle Parish

This parish has one small private piped supply serving three farms and six cottages. The other properties have small piped supplies and shallow wells; the most suitable source which can serve this parish being from Llanbwchllyn Lake under the Area Water Supply Scheme.

During the year some progress was made in the taking over by the Council of the Painscastle Water Undertaking which serves the village of Painscastle. Plans for the improvement scheme have been prepared which include for the construction of a Collecting Chamber, Slow Sand Filters and improvements to the existing Reservoir and the laying of a new 2-inch supply main. One sample taken from this supply was satisfactory.

8 samples from private supplies were taken during the year, 3 were satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory.

Llanstephan Parish

This parish has some 30 dwellings of which 12 are served by a private piped supply. The other dwellings are served by shallow wells and small piped supplies. This parish could be easily supplied with water from the Llanbwchllyn Lake scheme.

Llandilo-Graban Parish

There are three small private piped supplies in this parish, the other properties being served by shallow wells and springs. This parish is in urgent need of a piped supply and the only suitable source is Llanbwchllyn Lake.

During the year a small reservoir was constructed near the Garth springs and a service pipe laid to a standpipe on the Green to serve the community.

Llowes Parish

The Council own the supply serving the village of Llowes. The other dwellings in the parish are served from shallow wells and small private piped supplies.

The supply to the village became very low during the summer months and was barely sufficient to meet the demand and improvements were carried out to the method of collection of the springs. All inlets and tanks were put under cover which should result in a cleaner supply. The results of analyses are disappointing and the question of chlorinating the supply is being considered.

Samples of water from the source of supply and at the point of consumption continued to be taken during the year. Altogether 18 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and of these, 4 were satisfactory, 1 suspicious and 13 unsatisfactory.

In conclusion it is obvious from the above description that all water supplies should have urgent and serious consideration. Many of them are subject to pollution and the very large number from different sources makes it impossible to give them individual attention as frequently as desirable, which emphasizes the great need for the Llanbwchllyn Lake Water Supply Scheme.

Number of inspections made to water supplies in 1956 56.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are no public sewers nor sewage disposal works in the district apart from 6 small sewage disposal plants serving Council housing estates, 4 inspections to these plants being made during the year.

Some preparatory work was commenced during the year to provide a sewage disposal works to serve the village of Glasbury, and consideration was given for a joint scheme with the Hay Rural District Council to provide one works to serve the properties on both sides of the River Wye.

Number of visits made to drainage work 8.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector and the following details give information for 1956:-

Nuisances

Number of complaints received	15.
Number of complaints investigated	15.
Number of premises inspected	16.
Number of premises revisited	2.
Number of Preliminary Notices served	1.
Number of Abatement Notices served	0.

Verminous Premises (excluding rats and mice)

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparations. No premises were found infested during the year.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging houses in the district.

Houses let in Lodgings

It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Camping Sites

There are no registered camping sites in the district.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises

There are 6 licensed premises in the district.

Number of inspections made 23.

Factories

Number of factories in the district 2.

Number of inspections made 8.

Shops

There are 6 shops which deal in food in the district and these may be classified as follows:-

Grocers (General) 4.

Tobacconists/Confectioners 1.

Butchers 1.

Number of inspections made 10.

Rodent Control

One full-time rodent operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. This operator is similarly employed by the Hay Urban and Rural District Councils.

	1954	1955	1956
Number of premises inspected during the year	330	349	419
Number of premises found infested	63	58	59
Number of premises preated by the rodent operator	27	27	27
Number of premises treated by the occupier	36	31	32
Estimated number of rats killed in the year	324	344	366
Number of dead rats recovered in the year	73	102	103

Public Cleansing

Refuse is collected once weekly in the parishes of Llanstephan, Boughrood, Glasbury, Llowes and Clyro, and monthly in the parishes of Bryngwyn, Llandilo-Graban and Llanbedr-Painscastle. The refuse collection service is undertaken by the Council's lorry and staff jointly with Hay Urban and Hay Rural District Councils under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Clyro refuse tip.

Number of visits made to the refuse tip 12.

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 4. HOUSING

The Council own 42 houses. No new Council houses were erected in 1956.

There were 4 private houses built in 1956, making 10 completed since the War.

Three applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts 1949-54 were received and these were approved; the total amount of Grant being £527 towards the improvements.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries approved the payment of Grants under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts for the improvement of 4 farmhouses in the district during the year.

At the 31st. December, 1956, there were 13 applicants on your "waiting list" for Council houses as follows:-

Parish	Number of applicants	Number living in rooms
Boughrood	2	0
Clyro	2	0
Glasbury	4	2
Llandilo-Graban	3	1
Llanstephan	1	0
Llowes	1	0
	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>

Six of the applicants could be housed under a Slum Clearance Programme.

In respect of Llandilo-Graban, it has not been possible to build houses in this parish because a site with a suitable water supply is not available.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 (Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	60.
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	0.
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	0.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made	0.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (2) of section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930	0.
8. Number of houses demolished	3.

SECTION 5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Under the Milk & Dairies Act, 1944, the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries is responsible for the licensing and supervision of milk producers and the Council is only responsible for the licensing and control of milk distributors.

There are no dairies registered in the district, but 2 supplementary licences are issued to milk dealers who are registered in the Borough of Brecon.

Number of samples taken from dealers	7.
Number of samples satisfactory	5.
" " unsatisfactory	2.

The result of these samples was sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture at Brecon.

Meat One slaughterhouse was registered on the 31st. July, 1954, for a period of 5 years.

Number of inspections made 54.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)						
Number inspected	0	0	4	167	28	0
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	0	0	0	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	0	7	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	-	-	-	4.2	7.14	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	0	0	0	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	0	0	0	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	0	0	0	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other foods condemned

There were no foodstuffs condemned during the year from shops in the district.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses)

There are no bakehouses in the district.

Fish and chip shops

There are no fish and chip shops in the district

Ice-Cream Premises

There are 3 premises registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream. No samples of ice-cream were submitted for analysis during the year.

Number of inspections of ice-cream premises 3.

SECTION 6. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No cases of notifiable diseases were reported to me during the year.

Venereal Disease

The County Council has an agreement with the County Hospital at Hereford for the treatment of such cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

One new case of tuberculosis of the respiratory system was notified during the year.

Immunisation

As a result of the Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for this district will be found hereunder. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and at the schools during ordinary medical inspections.

Age periods	Diphtheria Immunisation	Whooping Cough Innocation	Vaccination
Under 1 year	8	7	2
Age 1 year	4	3	0
Age 2 years	0	0	0
Age 3 years	0	0	0
Age 4 years	1	1	0
Age 5 - 9 years	4	1	0
Age 10 - 14 years ..	0	0	0
Age 15 years	0	0	0
Total	17	12	2

The above figures have dropped considerably from last year. The vaccination figure represents only 6.8% of all babies born during the year. I would like to take this opportunity of impressing on all parents the importance of having their children immunised and vaccinated at an early age.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. WILSON.

Medical Officer of Health.



